

To Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2189 without my signature. This bill shifts the responsibility for ensuring immigration consultants file and maintain a bond from the Secretary of State to local city and district attorneys.

This bill requires a corporate surety to notify the local city attorney or district attorney of the county when an immigration consultant has cancelled their surety bond – bonds that immigration consultants are required to have under current law. Additionally, the bill sets forth a \$10,000 civil penalty for a corporate surety company's failure to comply and allows for a private cause of action against a corporate surety if they fail to notify.

Currently, the Secretary of State is responsible for administering the law requiring the filing and maintenance of bonds by immigration consultants. Corporate sureties already notify the Secretary of State when a bond is cancelled.

This bill does little to protect consumers against unscrupulous consultants, and instead subjects corporate surety companies to penalties and lawsuits for failure to notify.

This bill creates new exposures to penalties and litigation to an industry supplying protection to the consumer by bonding immigration consultants.

For these reasons I cannot support this bill.

Sincerely,